

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ANKARA 03850 171528Z

51

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NEAE-00 EA-11 IO-14 INRE-00

SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4183

S E C R E T ANKARA 3850

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: CENTO

SUBJECT: CENTO MINISTERIAL

REF: STATE 101889

SUMMARY: MAY 17, CHARGE URGED FLEXIBILITY HANDLING
POLITICAL GUIDANCE PAPER PROCEDURAL QUESTION ON
TURKISH DIRECTOR GENERAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS. SOYSAL
INDICATED HOPE PROCEDURAL PROBLEM COULD BE SOLVED IN
STEERING COMMITTEE. CONVERSATION SUGGESTED THAT
UNHAPPINESS OF TURKISH MILITARY WITH WHAT THEY CONSIDER
EFFORT EXPAND PURPOSES OF CENTO MAY BE BEHIND RECENT
STRANGE TURKISH BEHAVIOR RE GUIDANCE PAPER. END SUMMARY

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH ISMAIL SOYSAL, DIRECTOR GENERAL,
POLITICAL AFFAIRS, MFA, MAY 17, CHARGE EXPRESSED STRONG
US HOPE THAT TURK REPRESENTATIVE IN STEERING COMMITTEE
(WHO WILL BE SOYSAL HIMSELF) WOULD BE AS FLEXIBLE AS POSSIBLE
IN HELPING RESOLVE PROCEDURAL DISPUTE OVER HANDLING OF POLITICAL
GUIDANCE PAPER WITHOUT REFERRING IT TO COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.

2. AFTER USUAL EXCHANGE OF ARGUMENTS FOR AND AGAINST
TURKISH DESIRE FOR COOPERATIVE APPROACH TO PAPER BY POLITICAL

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 ANKARA 03850 171528Z

WORKING GROUP AND OTHER THREE CENTO COMMITTEES, SOYSAL

SAID HE THOUGHT RESOLUTION IN STEERING COMMITTEE WOULD BE POSSIBLE ON BASIS ONE OF SYG'S THREE PROPOSALS. HE HINTED BUT CAREFULLY AVOIDED SAYING THAT TURKEY WOULD FALL BACK, IF NECESSARY, TO ANY ONE OF THEM ACCEPTABLE TO ALL OTHER MEMBERS. AS TO PROBLEMS RESULTING FROM THROWING MATTER TO MINISTERS, HE SAID "SOME OF THEM HAVE THEIR SPEECHES WRITTEN ALREADY ANYWAY" AND ABSENCE OR PRESENCE OF PROCEDURAL ISSUE WILL MAKE NO DIFFERENCE.

3. AS TO REASON TURKS ARE MAKING SO MUCH FUSS OVER INCLUSION OTHER COMMITTEES IN WORK ON POLITICAL GUIDANCE PAPER, WE HAVE RECEIVED INDICATIONS FROM WORKING LEVELS MFA THAT (A) GOT HAS NO INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION MECHANISM AND THEREFORE MUST WORK OUT ITS POSITIONS WITHIN CENTO COMMITTEES, AND (B) THAT RANK CONSCIOUS TURKISH MILITARY OFFICERS UNWILLING SIT IN WHAT MIGHT APPEAR SUBORDINATE ROLE TO MFA CIVILIANS.

4. ANOTHER ANGLE SUGGESTING TURKISH MILITARY VIEWS MAY BE AT CORE OF PROBLEM APPEARED WHEN SOYSAL IN CONVERSATION WITH CHARGE PRODUCED HEAVILY ANNOTATED COPY OF DRAFT POLITICAL GUIDANCE PAPER CIRCULATED BY CENTO SECRETARIAT MAY 8. HE SAID DOCUMENT WAS VERY DISTURBING, PARTS OF IT TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE TO TGS AND TO HIS MINISTER WHO HAD JUST READ IT. HE FOCUSED ON "DIRECTIVES FOR MILITARY PLANNING" SECTION, ESPECIALLY PARAS 16-18, SAYING THAT TURKISH MILITARY SAY THEY SIMPLY CAN'T HAVE THIS EFFORT EXPAND PURPOSES OF CENTO. HE SAID TURKISH MILITARY-AND FOREIGN OFFICE-WILL NOT UNDERTAKE MAKE PLANS SUPPORT IRANIANS AGAINST IRAQIS OR PAKISTANIS AGAINST AFGHANS OR INDIANS. AS FOR ANY SOVIET MILITARY THREAT, TURKEY RELIES ON NATO NOT CENTO, WHICH IS ONLY A "COOPERATIVE" ORGANIZATION, ALBEIT A VERY USEFUL ONE.

5. THUS, SOYSAL SAID ROAD TO AGREEMENT ON POLITICAL GUIDANCE PAPER WAS GOING TO BE LONG, HARD ONE. TURKEY WANTED ONLY TO HAVE WORK GO AHEAD ON PAPER SO ALL THESE QUESTIONS COULD BE THRASHED OUT AND OTHER CENTO PEOPLE CONCERNED (READ TURKISH MILITARY) COULD HAVE A CHANCE PARTICIPATE.

6. SOYSAL CONCLUDED PRESENTATION WITH STATEMENT THAT TURKS
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 ANKARA 03850 171528Z

FEEL STRONGLY PAKISTAN NEEDS SUPPORT BUT THAT BILATERAL US-PAKISTAN AGREEMENT (HE ALSO HAD ANNOTATED COPY OF THIS IN HAND) WAS PROPER VEHICLE FOR THAT. TURKS DIDN'T MIND, ACTUALLY APPROVED, US SUPPORTING PAKISTAN, AND IRAN ALSO FOR THAT MATTER, BUT THEY DID NOT WANT BE DIRECTLY INVOLVED, EVEN THROUGH CENTO, IN WHAT COULD BE CONSIDERED "ANTI-ARAB," "ANTI-AFGHAN," OR "ANTI-INDIAN" MOVES.

7. CHARGE EMPHASIZED OBJECTIVE AT MOMENT WAS TO GET BACK TO WORK ON POLITICAL GUIDANCE PAPER. SECRETARIAT DRAFT WAS NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENTATIVE VIEWS MEMBERS. HE DOUBTED THE US AND TURKEY WOULD HAVE ANY GREAT DIFFICULTY RE THEIR RESPECTIVE VIEWS ON OBJECTIVES OF CENTO VIS-A-VIS BOTH COMMUNIST AND OTHER REGIONAL THREATS. IN ANY EVENT, ALL VIEWS SHOULD BE TALKED OUT LATER RATHER THAN NOW.

8. PARAS 3-5 ABOVE ARE MOST PLAUSIBLE EXPLANATION WE HAVE FOUND TO DATE FOR STRANGE RECENT TURKISH BEHAVIOR ON POLITICAL GUIDANCE PAPER QUESTION. THIS BEHAVIOR MAY ALSO REFLECT SOME INTERESTING BACKGROUND TURKISH THINKING ON BROADER CENTO QUESTIONS. WE ARE NOT SURE, HOWEVER, THAT IT SHOULD ALL BE TAKEN LITERALLY AS SOYSAL WAS OBVIOUSLY DEEPLY CAUGHT UP IN SUBJECT AND HAD APPARENTLY JUST LEFT DISCUSSION OF IT WITH SOMEWHAT INFLAMMABLE MINISTER.

9. SECRETARIAT DRAFT POLITICAL GUIDANCE PAPER POUCHED WASHINGTON. DIRECTIVES FOR MILITARY PLANNING PARAGRAPHS BEING SENT SEPTEL. SECRETARIAT GROUP IN WASHINGTON SHOULD HAVE COPY COMPLETE DRAFT.

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